

countless forces pulling the authors of this legislation in many different directions. There have been industry groups, individual companies, consumer groups, unions, think tanks, the administration, and many, many more all with an interest in this bill who have rightfully voiced their concerns as this process has gone forward. I admire the long hours of hard work performed by the Commerce Committee and its staff in sorting through the maze of this highly complex issue and producing this conference report. I certainly did not envy these individuals as they tackled this extraordinary difficult task.

While, as I have said, we all respect the ability of the free market to produce jobs and foster economic growth, there are many in Congress who are reluctant to let the marketplace operate completely freely in all telecommunications industries. For example, many of my colleagues are concerned that the regional Bell companies will take undue advantage of their ownership of local telephone networks to compete unfairly in the long distance market. On the other hand, many other colleagues are equally adamant that we should place very few restrictions on Bell companies as they are permitted to offer long distance service.

This debate over long distance represents just one of the many, many difficult balancing acts the managers of this bill struggled with. In short, my colleagues had to reconcile the views of those who wanted to let the marketplace more or less reign free with those who sought regulatory protection for industries and for consumers. And let me tell you, this was no easy task for the authors of this bill; I commend them for their legislative ability. No one is 100 percent happy with the final product, but I am confident that the benefits we will realize in enacting this bill in the way of job creation and technological progress are real. We can all be proud of the job done by the authors of this legislation.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island. Those of us who have worked with the distinguished chairman and ranking member on this bill wish to acknowledge the great credit for their leadership, and for our distinguished majority leader and the minority leader for their backup assistance.

CLOTURE VOTE POSTPONED ON THE FARM BILL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if I could have the attention of my colleagues, I ask that the cloture vote be postponed.

Let me indicate what we believe is in progress. We have been working for the last 2 or 3 hours with a number of Members on each side of the aisle and with Chairman LUGAR and the ranking member, Senator LEAHY, on the Senate

Agriculture Committee. I am not certain if there is an agreement yet, but we may be close to an agreement. We think it would save a considerable amount of time if we could suspend it temporarily. I understand the Democrats have a conference at 5:30.

Mr. DASCHLE. Assuming we have an agreement to talk about, but I was told that we were close to an agreement. I felt it was important that we set a time, if it were possible to do that, and then immediately go back to the floor and continue our work.

Mr. DOLE. I know a number of Members have other engagements. I will be in a position, maybe by 6 o'clock, to indicate whether we have an agreement or do not have an agreement. If we do not have an agreement, we will vote on cloture. If we do have an agreement, we will try to get a time agreement and consider all amendments—en bloc?

Mr. DASCHLE. Hopefully.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request to set aside the cloture vote and to come back at 6 o'clock on this issue? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I can tell Members now that there will not be any votes for a while. We will try to give an announcement at 6 o'clock. We hope we can have a short time agreement. If there is an agreement overall on the agriculture bill, we would not be here too late this evening. If not, we would have to come back tomorrow or sometime next week.

So I say to my colleagues that we will let you know as soon as we have any information. And I appreciate your cooperation.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Let me commend the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, and in particular our minority ranking member, the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] for the remarkable job he has done in bringing us to the point we achieved today. Were it not for his contribution and leadership and incredible determination over the last several months, we would simply not have achieved what we achieved this afternoon. Senator HOLLINGS deserves commendation on both sides of the aisle. I publicly want to again thank him for the effort that he put forth, for the remarkable teamwork that he demonstrated in allowing us the opportunity to at long last achieve what we have all hoped we could achieve.

So I commend Senator HOLLINGS and others who were involved, certainly the Senator from South Dakota, and I am very pleased with the result this afternoon.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF RONALD REAGAN'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand a resolution I am about to offer

has been cleared on each side. I send it to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 220) in recognition of Ronald Reagan's 85th birthday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, 16 years ago, America was flat on her back. Our economy was a disaster. The only things up were inflation, interest rates, and unemployment—all in or near double digits. Abroad, our resolve was questioned by our allies and doubted by our adversaries.

Many so-called experts—including some in the Government—surveyed the situation, wrung their hands, shook their heads, and pronounced that the United States was in decline: That our best days were far behind us.

But one man knew better. And that man was Ronald Reagan.

Ronald Reagan knew that power belonged with the people, not with the Government. He knew that the best solutions to our problems came not from bureaucrats on the Potomac, but from men and women on the Mississippi, the Colorado, and the Columbia.

Ronald Reagan knew that economic recovery could be achieved not through regulations and redtape, but by allowing the magic of the marketplace to work its wonders.

Ronald Reagan knew that America was right far more often than she was wrong.

Ronald Reagan knew that military strength was not the means to war, but the key to peace.

Ronald Reagan knew that world respect came not from appeasement, but from standing by your friends, by speaking up for freedom, and by drawing the line against dictators.

Ronald Reagan knew that America was still a shining city on a hill, and that our Nation's best days were truly yet to come.

It was this vision that Ronald Reagan presented in 1980 and 1984.

It was this vision that the voters approved in overwhelming margins.

It was this vision that brought hope and opportunity to millions.

It was this vision that revitalized America, and changed the world.

Mr. President, next Tuesday is Ronald Reagan's 85th birthday. And the resolution we pass today will extend to President Reagan the greetings and best wishes of the U.S. Senate.

And I know I speak for all Members of the Senate, when I say that our thoughts and prayers are with the President and Nancy.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise tonight to wish Ronald Reagan, one of this country's, indeed, one of the world's, great leaders, a happy 85th birthday. The "Gipper" and his family—and friends joining across the